

*Lake Drummond Lodge No. 178, A. F. & A. M.*

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NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
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*The Master's Trestleboard  
December 2021*

*Lake Drummond Lodge No. 178, A.F. & A.M.*

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**"UNITED WE STAND"**

Chartered Dec. 16, 1874  
147th Year  
www.lakedrummond178.org

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Associate Marshal  
EDWARD J. CORONA

Associate Tiler  
C. ROYCE. McCOY

Tiler Emeritus  
H.M. "MARTY" HATFIELD, PM

LIVING PAST MASTERS OF LAKE DRUMMOND LODGE NO. 178

S.D. Archer - 1981	W. R. Manier - 1995	R.G. McEvoy - 2006	J.W. Conroy, Jr. - 2016
R.B. Holmes - 1982	G.R. Tester - 1996*	R.D. Reed - 2008	D.L. Bagley - 2017
H.M. Hatfield - 1984	P.W. Morley, Jr. - 1998	K.W. Strickland - 2009	J.W. Snow - 2018
R.S. Best - 1985	T.W. Magas - 1999*	K.E. Stephens, Jr. - 2010	H.P. Strickland - 2019
+J.V. Matthews, Jr. - 1986	+H. C. Slaughter, Sr. - 2000	K.L. Hobbs, Jr. - 2011	R.S. Anderson - 2020
L.P. Fields - 1987	R.L. McDaniel - 2001	R.T. Smith - 2012	
M.B. Joyner - 1989	+M.F. Mansfield - 2003*	C.A. Allsbrook - 2013	
G.E. Brown - 1990	+F.T. Whittington, Sr. - 2004	H.P. Strickland - 2014	
K.P. Strickland - 1991	W.R. Manier - 2005	W.M. Mutter - 2015	

+ - denotes PDDGM, \* - denotes demitted.

LIVING MEMBERS WHO ARE PAST MASTERS OF OTHER MASONIC LODGES

J.V. Matthews, Jr., PDDGM-NC	Garland #664, NC	1997-2001
A.W. Densley	Princess Anne #25	2012
G.L. Hanson	Edmond #37, OK	2018

LIVING AFFILIATED PAST MASTERS

F.N. Boalt	Ancon Lodge - Balboa, Rep. of Panama	1981
B. R. Faulkner, PDDGM-NC	Solomon's #1, SC	1976, 1999, 2008
	Old Fort #420, SC	1981, 1982, 2016
	Egeria #71, SC	2014
T.S. Ferrell	Great Bridge #257	2009
W.E. Irving, PDDGM	Great Bridge #257	1984
F.E. Small	Elizabeth #34	1995
R.G. Underdown	Campbell #316	1981
B.H. Wilson, PDDGM	South Norfolk #339	1990, 2013

## Master's Message

**Right Worshipful Sirs, Worshipful Sirs, and Brethren all,**

I would like to thank all of our Lodge Officers, Trustees, and Committee men that have helped make 2021 such a success. As Worshipful Master, I am grateful for the opportunity to have served Lake Drummond Lodge. It has been an experience that I will never forget. Thank you is almost not enough for my wife Dawn, who has been very supportive and helpful this year; however, that is nothing new for her as she has always been a constant blessing in my life.

As this year comes to a close, I would like us to reflect on the path we have travelled during the past twelve months. When we began in January, the numbers were restricted to the point of only Officers being allowed to be present during meetings. We adapted and overcame this obstacle by having Zoom meetings and designing a more colorful Trestle Board to engage and better connect with our Brethren. As the Lodges were able to open up, we needed to adapt to the changing COVID restrictions that we were governed by to keep us safe. As a group we carried onward, we stood together, and found new ways to improve on communication and keeping in contact with our members. Lake Drummond was instrumental in assisting with the one-day conferrals in our district, making new Masons and helping to spread brotherly love. In June, Most Worshipful Douglas Vernon Jones visited our Lodge and we were able to meet, eat, and return to more recognizable times. We were able to have a resemblance of our traditional fundraisers that always bring us closer as a lodge and to our local community. Two Community Builders awards were presented to outstanding and deserving individuals. We held a Fall Festival during our Brunswick Stew sale, that was well received by our neighbors and local families. Most Worshipful James Winfield Golladay Jr. made Lake Drummond his first visit as Virginia's newly installed Grand Master. Thanksgiving meals were prepared, shared, and enjoyed with old friends, neighbors, Brethren, and widows at our Lodge. All this was made possible because of each of you. Our Brethren came together and overcame adversities, obstacles, and everchanging restrictions. We stood united, and together we adapted as we had to, but we always kept our values, beliefs, and stayed true to our tenants, always moving forward. I would like to send a special thank you to all of those who went out of their way this year to make it a memorable and enjoyable experience.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

*Paul A. Wotring*

**Worshipful Master 2021**

## A Message from Worshipful John W. Conroy, Jr.

My Brethren,

I hope this message finds you all doing well and enjoying the Holiday Season. I pray that each of you have comfort and peace during this time of year. Please know that I and Lake Drummond Lodge are here to help, aid, and assist you in whatever we can. As we move into the next Masonic Year, I ask for support from each of you as we attempt to spread "More Light in Masonry" by building on the plans and goals laid down by our Past Masters. Together we can continue to grow the Craft and strengthen Lake Drummond Lodge. I look forward to assisting the Lodge next year by serving in the East, at the will and pleasure of the Brethren. May Friendship and Brotherly Love prevail, and every moral and social virtue unite and cement us.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

John W. Conroy, Jr., PM

## Trustees of Lake Drummond No.178

Lake Drummond would like to extend our deepest gratitude to all of its Trustees past and present. Without all of their tireless work our beloved Lodge would not be nearing the monumental 150<sup>th</sup> year in existence.

Please tell these treasured Brethren "Thank You" for a job well done when you see them next!

**Bro. J.J. Ramsey, Wor. D.L.Bagley, Wor. K.P. Strickland, Wor. H. M. Hatfield, Wor. H. P. Strickland**

## Quote of the Month

"My idea of Christmas, whether old-fashioned or modern, is very simple: loving others. Come to think of it, why do we have to wait for Christmas to do that?"

~Bro. Bob Hope

## Moment of Light from Wor. Chris Allsbrook

### Birth of Jesus

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told. On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.

**Luke 2:1-21 NIV**

## Announcements

Have a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!  
Please remember to donate to the local Food Bank. All donations are appreciated.

## Happy Holidays

X A Q J E M O Y S K D I V D D F O  
 D S O C S D I B A T P W Q N K J L  
 O H A R O H K A Y D Q V Y T B B A  
 N E E N O S E B R U I U X Q F T M  
 P P K H H H G P C T L L A Y I E B  
 C E N M E J H O H T T E O H O U E  
 Y H J O S E P H L E H Q T H K O S  
 X V R A X V Y K J D R R R I L U N  
 B N A I G O B H Y E E D N T D E E  
 R S J Y S L X R M M E G S P H E C  
 R V F S K T A K M S S V J K A J N  
 X A N D U M M U G U A H L C S C I  
 X E T B O Y R A Y T I V I T A N K  
 W E Q S G D S D S I N H R R Y M N  
 M E H E L H T E B C T L W A X E A  
 U A N G E L S I Z K T S F I E R R  
 P X M F E H L O Z T C L I H K O F

Christmas	Saint	John	Bethlehem
Star	Baby	Mary	Joseph
Gold	Three	Kings	Myrrh
Frankincense	Drummer	Boy	Lamb
Donkey	Nativity	Holiday	Love
Peace	Angels	Yuletide	Shepherds



## Holiday Trivia

Test your Holiday knowledge with a few random trivia questions.

### Questions:

**Q1:** How many reindeer traditionally pull Santa's sleigh?

**Q2:** Name Santa's Reindeer?

**Q3:** What does the Menorah stand for?

**Q4:** Name this iconic 1946 Christmas movie starring Jimmy Stewart?

**Q5:** Are there penguins in the North Pole?

### Answers:

**A1:** Eight.

**A2:** Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, Blixen, and of course Rudolph.

**A3:** The seven lamps allude to the branches of human knowledge, represented by the six lamps inclined inwards towards, and symbolically guided by, the light of God represented by the central lamp. It also symbolizes the creation in seven days, with the center light representing the sabbath.

**A4:** "It's a wonderful Life", side note, Bro. Jimmy Stewart was a Mason.

**A5:** No, there are no penguins at the North Pole.



## Tentative Schedule Lake Drummond Lodge No. 178 for 2021



November 2021		December 2021					January 2022
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
			1	2 Berkley 167 Doric 44	3	4 St. Thomas Conclave RCC	
5 Lake Drummond Ritual School	6 Portsmouth Scottish Rite	7 South Norfolk 339	8 Lake Drummond Officers Meeting and practice	9 Lake Drummond 178 Annual Stated	10	11	
12	13 Victory Chapter No. 16 OES	14	15	16	17	18	
19 Rented	20 Portsmouth Commandery No. 5	21 Indian River 232	22 Great Bridge 257	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas	
26	27 Victory Chapter No. 16 OES	28 Cradock RAC 72	29	30	31	<b>Notes:</b> Annual Stated 12-9-21	

*Brethren, Holiday times and meeting dates may change, please verify meeting dates and know that things are subject to change.*

### In Memoriam

Please remember all of our Brethren that have laid down their worldly working tools and passed on to the Celestial Lodge above.

### Sunshine Committee Report

*Please keep our sick and distressed raised up in your thoughts and prayers. The best thing that you can do for someone is to pray for them. If you know of a Brother, widow, or family member that is sick, injured, or distressed, please inform either the Sunshine Committee, or one of your Lodge officers. We want to ensure we are praying for every need any of our Lodge members may face. In this unprecedented time, we need to readily reach out to one another and share each other's burdens. All reported needs will only be shared based on the privacy and discretion requested by each member.*

#### Get Well Cards

Wor. H. M. "Marty" Hatfield  
 Rt. Wor. F. T. "Buddy" Whittington Sr  
 Geraldine Budd  
 Kathi Patrick  
 Lydia Boalt  
 Terrie Hepler

#### Thinking of You

Bro. Monty Mitchell  
 Bro. Al Budd  
 Bro. Ron Hepler  
 Teresa "Tesi" Strickland

## Master Craftsmen Pledge Drive

Brethren Thank you so much for your generous contributions to the Master Craftsmen Pledge Drive! Every donation helps support the Lodge. We will continue this Pledge drive through the end of the year.

**We have raised over \$16,000.00 reaching 33% to our goal of \$50,000.00.**

We have also had a contribution rate of over 28% of our membership!!

There is still time to make you pledge or donation. Every amount is appreciated and treasured.

Thank you for investing on your Lodge.

We hope you can join us at Lodge to reap the rewards for years to come.

Donations to the Master Craftsman Pledge Drive go towards building back our Treasury and will be invested by the Lodge Trustees for future use by the Lodge. Thank you to all of our Brethren for everything you do for your Lodge.

We are investing our Masonic wages for the betterment of not only ourselves but all Mankind.

### Levels of Donations

Any amount is greatly appreciated.

\$1 - \$199 – Temple Builder

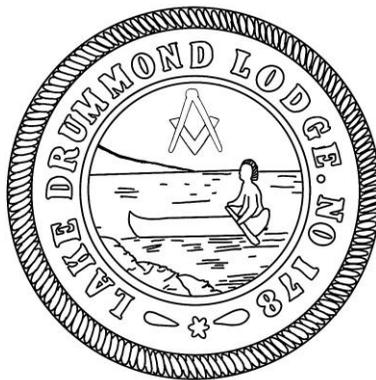
\$200 - \$239 – Craftsman

\$240-\$359 – Master Craftsman

\$360 - \$499 – Master Overseer

\$500 - \$999 – Master Architect

\$1,000 & Up – Grand Master



## December Masonic Birthdays

Join us in wishing these Brethren a Happy Masonic Birthday!

Bro. Carol Ray Young – December 5, 1957 – 64 Years

Bro. Ted Owen Ambrose III – December 3, 2003 – 18 Years

Bro. Clarence Michael Tate – December 26, 2007 – 14 Years

**96 Total Years in Freemasonry**



**Merry Christmas**

## **This Month in Masonic History**

### **December**

**December 4:** On this date in 1807, Most Worshipful Brother Prince Hall, the first African American known to have received the Masonic degrees in America, died.

**December 5:** On this date in 1730, Benjamin Franklin's Pennsylvania Gazette included news about several Lodges of Free-Masons meeting in that "province." Franklin was not yet a Freemason when his newspaper printed this item.

**December 8:** On this date in 1858, the Grand Lodge of Washington State was formed.

**December 9:** On this date in 1999, the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of D.C. voted to recognize the Grand Lodge of D.C.

**December 12:** On this date in 1787, the Grand Lodge of North Carolina was organized.

**December 14:** On this date in 1994, the United Grand Lodge of England issued a statement that it found the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, the source of all Prince Hall Masonry in the United States, to be regular and deserving of recognition.

**December 15:** On this date in 1779, American Union Lodge, a traveling lodge under the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, met and proposed that George Washington become the General Grand Master of Masons in the United States. There is no evidence that Washington ever heard about this, and no evidence that he ever held any Masonic position other than Master of a lodge. On this date in 1874, the Grand Lodge of Wyoming was formed.

**December 16:** On this date in 1786, the Grand Lodge of Georgia was organized.

**December 17:** On this date in 1867, the Grand Lodge of Idaho was formed.

**December 18:** On this date in 1786, the Grand Lodge of New Jersey was organized. On this date in 1799, George Washington's funeral was conducted in Masonic fashion, at Mount Vernon, Virginia. On this date in 1843, the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin was formed.

**December 22:** On this date in 1753, the Royal Arch degree was conferred in Fredericksburg Lodge in Virginia. This is the first unquestioned evidence of the conferral of this degree.

**December 26:** On this date in 1972, Harry S. Truman, former President of the United States, Past Grand Master of Missouri, and a very active Freemason, died. He had requested a Masonic funeral, but instead the government, which handled the details, permitted a short Masonic ceremony during the funeral service.

**December 27:** On this date in 1783, the Grand Lodge of South Carolina was organized. On this date in 1813, the Grand Lodge of Louisiana was formed. On this date in 1813, Grand Officers and Brethren of the United Grand Lodge of England consummated the union of the Moderns and Ancients into the UGLE.

**December 30:** On this date in 1837, the Grand Lodge of Texas was formed.

## Christmas Poem

'Twas the night before Christmas, and down at  
the Lodge  
Not a gavel was stirring, and in the hodge-podge  
Of aprons and jewels and chairs East and West  
You could savor the silence, most gladly divest  
All metal and mineral, it mattered not,  
Since Christmas was nigh, and the coals were still  
hot.

In the hearth of your homeplace, all Masons abed,  
As visions of trestle boards danced in their head.

When up on the roof there arose such a clatter  
Our Tiler jumped up to see, what was the matter!  
He picked up his sword and ran fast to the door,  
Three knocks shook the panels — he wondered  
“What for?”

He answered the knocking with raps of his own,  
And once the door opened he saw, with a moan  
Of delight it was Santa, all jolly and red  
Except for one notable feature instead!

Upon his large finger he wore what we knew  
Were compasses and square on a background of  
blue!

“Why Santa!” he shouted and lowered his blade,  
“I see you’re a Mason!” the Tiler relayed.  
He looked toward the Master’s most dignified  
chair

And said, voice near trembling, “Most  
Worshipful Sir

There’s a Gentleman properly clothed at the  
gate!”

The Master replied, “Let’s allow him — but wait!  
You tell me a Gentleman, but I don’t see  
His Apron beneath that red suit, can it be  
Our visitor hasn’t been properly raised?”



Must we offer a test that is suitably phrased?”  
“I do beg your pardon,” ol’ Santa said quick  
As he pulled up his coat and displayed not a stick  
But a cane with engraving, two balls did appear  
And oh, what an apron, he wore and held dear!  
Adorned like the Master’s, complete with a sign  
Of “Lodge Number One, the North Pole” on one  
line!

“Now let this man enter,” the Master declared,  
And once in the Lodge room, the Brethren all stared,  
For Santa was wearing a jewel not seen  
For many a century — there in between  
The fur of his coat and the splendid red collar  
Gleamed two golden reindeer that shone line a  
dollar!

“It’s Donner and Blitzen, who I must confess  
Are actually images brought from the West  
By my Warden, a craftsman like none in the world!”  
And with a great laugh from his bag, he unfurled  
An ear of fine corn, and some oil from the East,  
“My friends I have plenty, tonight we will feast  
On all that is good! We are Masons, kind sir!”  
A murmur went throughout the Lodge, quite a stir,  
As presents and promises flew from his sack!  
This Santa, a Mason, showed he had a knack  
For making this Christmas the best you could glean,  
And soon even Deacons were laughing, they’d seen  
On this very night only, happiness reigned!  
This jolly Saint Nicholas quickly explained  
That only a Mason could be so inclined  
To make all kids happy, make all people find  
A Christmas so special, yes, Santa was right!  
Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night!”

by Brother David Hunter

## Dues Reminder

Brethren,

Thank you to those who have paid your dues. There are currently 26 Members who have not paid their 2020 and 2021 Dues. Dues are currently \$170.00 and are due by December 31. If you are two years in arrears you are subject to Suspension for Non-Payment of Dues (SNPD). Dues arrearage reminders have been mailed out and those Brethren have been reported to the Grand Master. Citations for Suspension of Non-Payment of Dues were issued at our September Stated Communication if you owe two years of Dues.

**If you are having financial difficulties, please reach out to the Secretary or Worshipful Master and we will make arrangements to assist!**

Dues invoices for 2022 will be mailed approximately October 25, 2021. Dues for 2022 will be \$175.00

You can pay your dues online via PAY PAL or credit card at  
<http://lakedrummond178.org/PaymentCenter/Default.aspx>

Remember LMIP and 50 Year Masonic Veterans are not liable for Dues

Purchase you LMIP and never pay dues again, 25 times your current year dues or \$4,250.00 until 12/31/2021  
after that it increases to \$4,375.00

LMIP can be purchased all at once or paid in installments or by credit card/PayPal. Inquire with the Secretary  
if you are interested.



We need your help Brethren. Are you looking to get more involved? There are multiple ways to help. Get in Line, become a Lodge Officer. volunteer to help in the kitchen, assist with a fundraiser, learn a lecture or piece of ritual. We enjoy the company and time spent with Brothers, there are so many ways to connect with your Brethren, reach out to an Officer today!

## Is Father Christmas a Freemason?

I have a very serious question to put to you all. I would like to raise it with you and then do some detective work, examining the evidence that might lead us to answering it. It is a most important question that I am sure you have often asked yourself and relates our Craft to the wider society in which we live and concerns several major issues of this season. This very serious question is "Is Father Christmas a Freemason?"

Let us consider the facts of this case: Of whom does this remind you? A worthy gentleman, who is (we must admit) getting on a bit in years and is perhaps a little overweight, who wears a very distinctive costume as the badge of his activities, who provides the opportunity for friends and visitors to meet in fellowship, who is surrounded by secrecy and mystery, dispenses goodwill and the charity of gifts all over the world (avoiding ostentatious public display while doing so) and is there doing it year after year! Well, fellow detectives, you must admit that this description could fit either Santa or a Freemason. But this is merely circumstantial evidence. We need some proof!

Let us start with his movements on the evening in question. All the reports have him coming from the North Pole. As the sun rises in the east to open and enliven the day, and with him needing to finish the world before dawn, then he would have to begin in the East and move towards the West. Therefore, Father Christmas must begin his journey at the north-east corner of the world. This, of course, is exactly what we do with an Entered Apprentice. Similarly, you would assume he would finish heading for home, which would place him in the north-west corner at the end of his work, to give his salute to the world and leave. Convincing proof, you must agree! But think too, he undertakes this great journey to provide the gifts but once a year, and I am sure that any Brother Treasurer will agree that this is exactly the frequency with which most Brethren provide the gift of their charity to the lodge! And the secrecy, the mystery? Those of you who are parents, remember. What was the worst crime that an older child could commit at this time of the year? To tell the younger ones the secret of Santa, to break the faith that they should have kept. And I am sure your punishment of them pointed out that they were void of all moral worth and totally unfit to be received into the dinner table but be sent to their room for destroying something that was so good, so worthwhile and so innocent.

Surely all this evidence shows us beyond doubt that Father Christmas is a Freemason! He practices Brotherly Love and Relief; we are happy to meet him and the Christmas season, and sorry to part. All the details, his wearing of a uniform, the rituals that happen year in year out, the fact he is a male ... On a more serious note, Brethren, the way the whole Christmas season has developed and is practiced does have many things in common with Freemasonry, and we can learn much about each from the other. For instance, where did the figure we call Father Christmas come from originally? What is his background? Father Christmas, or Santa Claus, or St Nicholas has elements of pre-Christian myths and legends, which developed through the Middle Ages by being built into the great Christian story of God's wonderful gift to the world. By the eighteenth and nineteenth century these details were formalized into the character that we still have today: his stylized uniform, his way of working, his ritual activities and sayings. This all sounds very Masonic.

The pre-Christian legends of Solomon's Temple, the pyramids, Pythagoras, and so on were developed through the Middle Ages by the great Christian cathedral builders, then formalized in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries into the uniform, the work, the rituals that we use today. St Nicholas was actually a 4th century Turkish bishop who had originally been a rich nobleman. One of the stories about him was that he had helped a poor man who could not afford to pay for weddings for his 3 daughters. St Nicholas climbed onto the

## From the Treasurer's Desk

**Greetings from the Treasurer,**

It has been an honor and privilege to serve this Lodge as Treasurer for the past seven years. I look forward to assisting for many years to come. I wish the incoming officers the best and pledge my support to Lake Drummond Lodge. I hope you all have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Sincerely,  
**Wor. Raymond G. McEvoy, Treasurer**

## From the Secretary's Desk

**Greetings from the Secretary,  
My Brethren,**

From my family to yours I wish you all the happiest of Holidays, Merry Christmas and I hope and pray from a safe and prosperous New Year. With all of the craziness in the world and the way events are portrayed in the news, it is easy to think the worst, but each of us has the opportunity to effect change and be a beacon of Light. I am proud of Lake Drummond Lodge and the Brethren that shine brightly to make our community a better place.

Sincerely,  
**Wor. Kyle W. Strickland, Secretary**

## Chaplain

**Greetings from the Chaplain,**

Remember the reason for the season. We do what we do for his glory. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Sincerely,  
**Wor. Christopher A. Allsbrook, Chaplain**

## Salutations from the Marshal

**Greetings from the Marshal,**

The holidays are once again upon us which also means the end of the year is fast approaching. It has been a pleasure serving as Marshal for the lodge during 2021. I want to thank the officers and members for making this a memorable year for myself and our lodge. Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Sincerely,  
**Bro. Gregory T. "Gus" Gustafson,**

## Tiler

**Greetings from the Tiler,**

It has been a pleasure serving you this year. I am proud to call you all my brothers. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sincerely,  
**Bro. Rodger D. Jones, Tiler**

## From the West

### Greetings from the West,

Hello Brethren, as the year draws to a close I feel that I have learned much and I still have much to learn. We had a very successful year and it feels like things are finally returning to normal with the holidays around the corner. I look forward to what next year has in store for us and I can't wait to continue this journey with everyone.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

**Bro. William E. "Billy" Phelps, Jr., Senior Warden**

## From the South

### Greetings from the South,

Congratulations to Worshipful Wotring for his highly successful year in the East! The lodge enjoyed many achievements with him at the helm despite the constant looming of COVID-19. We have a good year to look back on and a good year to look forward to and there isn't much else a mason can ask for. I have enjoyed my year as Junior Warden and am ready to step up to the next level. I wish all the brethren at Lake Drummond Lodge happy holidays and a joyful new year.

Until next time brethren,

**Bro. T. Adam Drake, Junior Warden**

## A Message from the Senior Deacon

### Greetings from the Senior Deacon,

Brethren, as Christmas time approaches, take the time and reflect the true meaning of Christmas. Take the time to embrace loved ones and share those special moments. It has been an honor serving as your Senior Deacon this year and I look forward to serving as your Junior Warden. Merry Christmas!

Sincerely,

**Bro. Marshall W. "Bubba" Tatem, Jr., Senior Deacon**

## A Message from the Junior Deacon

### Greetings from the Junior Deacon,

Greetings and happy holidays Brethren. I just wanted to say it has been a pleasure serving you all this year and I look forward to continuing next year. I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

**Bro. Bradley A. Phelps, Junior Deacon**

## Senior Steward

### Greetings from the Senior Steward,

Wishing all a heartfelt Merry Christmas and a healthy Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

**Bro. Robert E. "Bobby" Allen, Senior Steward**

## Junior Steward

### Greetings from the Junior Steward,

Happy holidays from the Junior Steward,. I am glad to be part of such a great lodge.

Sincerely,

**Bro. David A. Maple, Junior Steward**

## Is Father Christmas a Freemason cont.

roof and threw a handful of gold coins down the chimney and these coins fell into the girls' stockings that had been hung up by the fire to dry. The girls were then able to marry well and lived happily ever after.

He has been considered the patron saint of poor children ever since. The legend became very popular in Europe, especially the Netherlands where it was mixed with elements from the pagan Yule or mid-winter festivals. St Nick became Santa Claus, who would arrive on December 6<sup>th</sup> (St Nicholas' Day) mounted on a white horse and visit children to enquire about their behavior the previous year. Good children would be rewarded, and bad ones punished. The night before, children would leave a pair of the shoes or clogs out, filled with hay and carrots for the horse. In the morning these would be found, filled with sweets or small presents.

These traditions were taken to America by Dutch settlers, but it was the famous poem by Professor Clement Clark Moore which begins "'Twas the night before Christmas, and all through the house...." which settled most of the details into the Santa figure we know today. Many of these details (such as the reindeer, and their names, the flying sledge, coming down the chimney) were first brought together in this poem, but Professor Moore took them from old traditions from as far afield as Finland and Siberia and they have stuck and become a single story. You can see how similar this is to the creation of our ritual and ceremonies. While these also certainly include many elements that are ancient folklore, they were put together quite deliberately by identifiable people, with a specific aim: to create an impression in the minds of the Brethren taking part. Like the Santa legend, the details may be fictional, they may come from many different sources, and they may even be inconsistent with each other. That does not matter.

It is the impression that all of them create as an entirety that is important. Would you deny all the good that the Santa story achieves, all the happiness it creates, just because it is a story? Of course not. And this is the real linking of Father Christmas and Freemasonry. Why do we have Christmas and why do we have Father Christmas? We celebrate religious beliefs about the birth of goodness, and hope for the future; we reaffirm the belief that people are basically good and can develop into loving, caring, helpful, supporting friends to each other.

We look to a New Year where things can be better. We do this at this season whether we are celebrating the Christian Nativity, or the Jewish Hannukah with its lights and gifts and story of peace, or the Hindu Diwali with its festival of lights and gifts of sweets and toys, or even if we hold no formal religion except the pleasure of seeing a child's face transfixed with wonder and delight. And why are we Freemasons? Because we believe that there are important things like goodness and hope for the future, and that men can develop into loving, caring, helpful, supporting Brethren to their families and each other. We not only look to a future where things can be better, but we see it as our role, as Free and Accepted, or Symbolic, Masons, to help to build that future. So, I feel I can safely say that Father Christmas is a Freemason. Not only does he show so many of the signs and tokens of being one, but he brings us a message that we, as Freemasons, can heed for the whole year.

Peace on earth, good will towards men! Merry Christmas.

David Downie  
St Trinians Lodge No 2050  
Isle of Man

## A Masonic Journey

*Each month we will spotlight a different Mason. We will tell his Masonic story, what brought him to Freemasonry, his most remembered masonic moment, his thoughts, his accomplishments, his dreams. We will learn about members of our Lodge by spotlighting different Masons each month. This month I would like to spotlight a mason that has inspired me, **Brother Marlin “Mo” Clugsten Patrick.***

Marlin “Mo” Clugsten Patrick is a native of Deep Creek and was raised in the Dismal Swamp area of what is now the southern portion of Chesapeake, Virginia. He grew up not far from Lake Drummond and the surrounding waterways on Douglas Road. Family, church, and lifelong friendships shaped the jolly man that “Mo” has become. From a young age, he was taught to love Christ, to respect friends and neighbors, and to share joy with those around him. Coming from a large family, six boys and a girl, “Mo” and his twin brother were the youngest. They were raised in a “Masonic Family” and those values were instilled in each of them. His mother, Elenore Patrick, and his father, William “Bill” Nelson Patrick were the Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron of the Eastern Star Chapter that met at Great Bridge Lodge where his father was a member. Many of Mo Patricks’ relatives are involved in masonry, including his mother and father; his uncle, Bro. Merdith Waller, a member of Great Bridge; his uncle, Wor. Russ Clugsten from a Lodge in Pennsylvania; and from Lake Drummond Lodge: his brother, Bro. David F. Patrick; his nephew, Bro. David F. Patrick Jr.; and his son, Bro. Marlin J. Patrick.

Sports and school kept “Mo” busy, but he was still able to start his first job at Kramer Tire while he was a senior at Deep Creek High School. Graduating in 1978, he worked at Kramer Tire until starting a new job with Ryder Truck in 1980. This is where he met his wife Kathi. They were Married in 1982 and have been married for 39 years. They have a daughter, Kimberly Denise Sprattley, and a son, Marlin James Patrick, whose seven-year-old twins, “Mo’s” grandson and granddaughter. “Mo” enjoys spoiling his grandchildren, especially since retiring from Dominion Power after 36 years in 2019.

It was at Dominion Power that he first thought about being Santa Claus. Around 1986, Dominion had asked some employees to man phone lines to answer phone calls from children who wanted to speak to Santa. After volunteering, he felt a calling to bring a little joy to children during the holidays. Each year “Mo” would improve on his portrayal of Santa until he had perfected it. Much like The Santa of legend, he gives freely of his time, money, and efforts to help brighten the lives of children and adults during the Christmas Season. He visits homes, schools, hospitals, and nursing facilities to make a difference in each life that he comes into contact with. He never charges money, nor does he ask for donations, but if one is given, he in turn, donates it to a needy family during the holidays. He has a servant’s heart, and a charitable soul. With a natural twinkle in his eye and an infectious smile, he brings about the spirit of Christmas to every place he goes.

When Marlin “Mo” Patricks’ father William “Bill” Nelson Patrick was a child growing up in the South Mills area of North Carolina, he lived next to a Masonic Lodge. “He didn’t know what they did in that building back then, but he knew what kind of men went in and out of it. When he was of age and settled he took the first step and joined Great Bridge Lodge.” This singular event had an impact on “Mo” and his family. The boys briefly joined a DeMolay Chapter, although participating for only one year, the love for Masonry was firmly planted. Bro. Marlin “Mo” Patrick joined Lake Drummond Lodge 28 years ago with his father a proud signer of his petition. He said that “Daddy loved it so well that I knew that I would too! I have many fond memories of Masonry, but my favorite is sitting in Lodge with my father. We would sit on the right side just after coming through the doors. We would sit there and enjoy our time together at Lodge.”

Bro. “Mo” Patrick says, “The Heart of a Mason is one of caring, giving, and brotherly love.” With this in mind, he stated that he has met men that were Masons in their heart even if not recognized as one. “A good man living right, believing in God, and doing the best he can, he is a Mason in his heart.” Perspective members are important to the health and growth of Masonry in general, but essential for a Lodge to survive. “I would tell anyone interested in becoming a Mason to take it seriously, and it will make you a better man. I love Jesus and he enables me to be a better man and to do things for others. You must live life as an example. I would not change a thing

## A Masonic Journey cont.

since becoming a Mason. It is not cut out for everybody, but it has taught me to walk upright. The catechisms that Wor. Roy McDaniel taught me were taken to heart and have made me a better man by following their example. Plain and simple, I just love it. My son saw this and wanted to follow my example.”

Being Santa Claus has helped Bro. “Mo” bring his ideals and beliefs of making the world better, one smile at a time, into a reality. The oldest man and woman that has sat on his lap for Christmas were in their 90’s. Their smiles were as bright as a child, and they were young again, even if for just a moment. That is what Christmas is all about. “I love to see the joy in a family’s face when I show up as Santa,” sick children brighten up, the elderly start to feel young again, and the spirit of the season is all around. “When making visits I always wear my Masonic ring on the outside of my gloves. This promotes Masonry and it brings joy to the brothers that I meet. In nursing homes when you reach out and grab a brother’s hand in that knowing way and ask them about their travels you can see the excitement and pride of recognition in their faces. I know that mom and dad raised me right.”

Bro. Marlin “Mo” Patrick states that, “The Tenants of Freemasonry are all equally important. They define how a person should be, and what they should strive to become. They come together like the ingredients for a pie, blended together to create a wonderful life, and one worthy to live.” He has spent his life striving to become a better man and a worthy brother, to serve as an example for others to follow. It is with great honor that Lake Drummond has been a part of his journey and to have him among our membership.

